

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176545
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176545

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 6348 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JUL 27:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6348

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE, UNDER SECY HABIB AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON AND NAS FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MPOL, IS, JO, XF

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE, NEWSWEEK
CORRESPONDENT

1. ON JULY 26, I HAD COFFEE WITH ARNAUD DE BORCHGAVE, INTERNA-
TIONAL EDITOR OF NEWSWEEK, AND PERSONAL FRIEND, WHO LEFT NEXT DAY
FOR A MONTH'S VACATION IN AMERICA. ONE PART OF CONVERSATION
MAY BE WORTH YOUR CONSIDERATION. DE BORCHGRAVE SAID HE WAS
CONVINCED THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD NOT OCCUR (OR CERTAINLY
WOULD BE ABORTED) BECAUSE ISRAEL DOESN'T WANT IT. HE HAS JUST
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FINISHED INTERVIEWS WITH ASSAD AND HUSSEIN, AND HAS TALKED TO
SADAT RECENTLY. HE QUOTES ISRAELI CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES SAYING
ANOTHER WAR IS INEVITABLE, IT WILL LAST THREE DAYS AND IT WILL
SET BACK ARABS TEN YEARS. DE BORCHGRAVE SAYS ISRAELIS WILL NOT
BELIEVE ANYONE REGARDING THEIR SECURITY. THEY KNOW THEY CAN
WIN THIS LIMITED WAR AND ARE WILLING TO RISK US WRATH AND
INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION. THE WAR WILL REAFFIRM THEIR OCCUPATION

OF THE WEST BANK. EXPECTING THE WAR TO CAUSE HUSSEIN'S DOWNFALL,
ISRAEL WILL INVITE THE PALESTINIANS TO STAY IN THE WEST BANK
TERRITORIES OR TO GO TO JORDAN WHICH PRESUMABLY THEY WOULD
CONTROL. DE BORCHGRAVE SAID THAT KEY ISRAELIS FELT THE COUNTRY
HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN SEEKING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HUSSEIN
BECAUSE THE PALESTINIANS WOULD HAVE HAD A "HOMELAND" IF THEY
HAD SUCCEEDED IN OVERTHROWING HUSSEIN IN 1974-75. IT IS DE
BORCHGRAVE'S SENSE THAT THE ARABS ANTICIPATE THIS ISRAELI
STRATEGY BUT ARE ESSENTIALLY POWERLESS TO DEAL WITH IT BECAUSE
OF THEIR OWN PERCEIVED MILITARY INADEQUACY. AN INTERESTING
POINT WAS HIS RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT AN ARAB OIL
EMBARGO IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A WAR. HE SAYS SUCH AN EMBARGO
IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE THE SAUDIS (AND PERHAPS OTHERS) SEE US
AS THEIR FRIEND, NOT ALONE ISRAEL'S ALLY.
VANDEN HEUVEL UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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